

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An airport operations managing system that provides decision support for airport operations, comprising:
  - a first database networked with a first data source usable to obtain and store shared status information on the status of airport operations;
  - a second database networked with a second data source usable to obtain and store airline status information of airline activities, wherein the second database is networked with the first database for status information exchange; and
  - a first airport operations advisor module having at least one of a graphical user interface and a text based interface and usable to manage airport operations, wherein the first airport operations advisor is networked with at least the first database to receive at least one of the shared status information and the airline status information.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first database includes at least publicly available status information and select airline status information that an airline chooses to share.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first database includes status information of functions particular to an airline.
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second airport operations advisor module having at least one of a graphical user interface and a text based interface and usable to manage airline operations, wherein the second airport operations advisor is networked with the first database and the second database to receive the shared status information and the airline status information.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the second airport operations advisor module is networked to the second database to obtain airline information and to distribute airline command directives.
6. The system of claim 4, further comprising a third airport operations advisor module located at an external agency having at least one of a graphical user interface and a text based interface and usable to monitor airport operations, wherein the third airport

operations advisor is networked with the first database to receive the status information at the external agency.

7. An airport operations managing system that provides decision support for airport operations, comprising:

- a first data source that provides airport status information, wherein the first data source is connected to an input/output interface;

- a second data source that provides airline status information, wherein the second data source is connected to an input/output interface;

- a memory connected to the input/output interface via a data bus for storing status information;

- a display connected to the input/output interface for viewing status information from the at least one of the first and the second data source;

- an input device connected to the input/output interface for inputting user commands to the airport operations managing system based on the status information; and

- a controller connected to the input/output interface to control the movement of data within the airport operations managing system.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the status information received from at least one of the first data source and the second data source is routed to a data protocol translating application connected to the data bus under the direction of the controller to be modified to a compatible format and translated status information is output to update information displayed in an active display by sending the status information to the display under the direction of the controller.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the status information is output to at least one of a database managing application and a display managing application connected to the input/output interface via a data bus, wherein at least one of the database managing application and the display managing application updates information displayed in an active display by sending the input airport support function status information to the display under the direction of the controller.

10. A method of providing decision support for airport operations, comprising:

gathering status information on at least one aircraft and an airport from at least one data source and storing the status information in a common decision support database;  
 distributing the status information to a display at an airport operations center;  
 reviewing the status information on the display to identify current status of operations; and  
 implementing a response based on the status information.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein implementing a response includes determining if an aircraft is ready for takeoff based on the status information.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein gathering the status information comprises gathering at least one of shared status information including public status information generated by activities at an airport, and proprietary information generated by an airline and chosen to be shared.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein gathering the shared status information comprises gathering the status of flight operations and ground services.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising archiving the status information to provide a historical record for identifying and implementing changes to airport operations.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the gathering of status information and distributing status information is done in real-time.

16. A storage medium storing a set of program instructions executable on a data processing device and usable to provide decision support for airport operations, the set of program instructions comprising:

instructions for gathering status information on at least one aircraft and an airport from at least one data source and storing the status information in a common decision support database;

instructions for distributing the status information to a display at an airport operations center;

instructions for reviewing the status information on the display to identify current status of operations; and

instructions for implementing a response based on the status information.